

For the Workers Councils

With the change in the form of "The Toiler" adopted this week goes a new policy. In the past this paper has been devoted to a general presentation of news regarding the working class movement and editorial comment on political and industrial developments. While a newspaper of this character has an important function to perform, this policy does not lead to any definite form of action.

The development of the working class struggle during the last three or four years has thrown in sharp relief the kind of organization which the workers must build up in order to successfully combat the capitalist class and its organs of power. It is through the Workers Councils that the power of the working class is mobilized and united for the struggle against the capitalist class. These Workers Council have their basis in the shops, the factories, the mills, the mines and railroad.

It was on the shop organizations and shop committees that the power of the Russian Soviets was built. In Germany the Workers Councils appeared as organs of the workers' power in every struggle against the junkers and the capitalists. In England the shop organizations are the basis of the shop stewards movement, which is both a challenge against reactionary trade unionism and a mobilization of the workers' power for militant action.

In Italy the workers are consciously proceeding with the work of organizing workers councils in preparation for the time when they will be compelled to assume the burden of carrying on the affairs of that country a day not far distant.

In the United States the workers are handicapped in the struggle against the capitalist class by a Trade Union organization more reactionary than that of England. The American Federation of Labor is seeking to be admitted to partnership in the government and with the capitalist class, rather than fighting the workers' battles in the class struggle. While many of the members of the A. F. of L. are ready to carry on an uncompromising struggle against the capitalist system, their efforts are fruitless because the machinery of their reactionary organizations sabotage every action which is not in accord with the conservative policy of their leaders.

The steel strike, the miners strike and the "outlaw" railroad workers strike, stand as a monument to the treachery of the officialdom of the American Federation of Labor and the Railroad Brotherhoods. In place of rallying the whole organized working class to the support of these striking workers, these officials either openly sold out the workers and joined with the capitalists in fighting

against them, or aided the enemy of the workers by their cowardly and vacillating policy.

The system of shop organizations and shop committees, ultimately to be united in the Workers Councils, offers and effective means of combating the trade unions and of uniting both organized and unorganized workers for common action. The shop committee is in close touch with the rank and file and responsive to its will. It does not represent the interests of any particular craft, but of all the workers in the shop. If there is a strike all the workers go out together. When the shop committees are united for a particular industry, they can swing all the workers in that industry into action. United in the Workers Councils they can bring to bear the whole power of the working class.

If there had been Workers Councils in every great industrial centre at the time of the steel strike and the miners strike, the workers would not have lost these strikes. The workers would have had the machinery at their command through which they could have taken united action to force the capitalists to their knees.

The part which "The Toiler" will play in the class struggle in this country in the future will be to carry on the agitation for the organization of shop organizations, shop committees and Workers Councils. Together with this agitation will go the advocacy of industrial unionism.

In carrying out this policy first hand information will be secured in regard to the conditions which the workers face in the industries. Close contact will be maintained with the actual life of the workers in the shops. Every strike of moment will be covered.

Those of the present readers who are ready to support this policy are urged to increase the influence of "The Toiler" by ordering bundles for sale to the workers in their shops and by securing subscriptions.

The shop organization, the shop committee, the Workers Councils, along that line lies the action that will hasten the day of the workers emancipation.

"Outlaw" strikes.

"Unauthorized" strikes.

"Illegal" strikes.

"Runaway" strikes.

"Unofficial" strikes.

Strikes against the Boss.

Strikes against union officialdom.

Strikes against the government.

Strikes against the "conciliators."

It really looks like capitalist conciliation fails to conciliate. What next?